

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are currently pending in the application. Each of claims 1-18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,725,927 to Morimoto et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 of the pending application includes the limitations of a reinforcing sheet comprising a fabric cloth having a basis weight of from 10 to 400 g/cm² and a fiber diameter of a fiber constituting the reinforcing sheet from 10 to 150 µm.

Morimoto et al. does not teach either of these elements. The Examiner asserts that Morimoto teaches a reinforcing sheet having a basis weight of from 10 to 400 g/cm², and points to column 3, lines 42-49 of Morimoto for this teaching. However, Morimoto describes an activated carbon fiber cloth having a surface area of 2000 m²/g. The activated carbon cloth is described in Morimoto as the cathode side polarizable electrode. This is not the reinforcing sheet or separator. Instead, this is a cathode (i.e., the functional sheet). Thus, Morimoto does not teach a reinforcing sheet comprising of fabric cloth having a basis weight of from 10 to 400 g/cm².

In addition, claim 1 of the pending application includes the limitation of the fiber diameter of a fiber constituting the reinforcing sheet from 10 to 150 µm. The Examiner again points to column 3, lines 42-49 of Morimoto for this teaching. Morimoto does not teach this element. Instead, Morimoto teaches a separator made of a non-woven fabric having a 0.4 mm thickness. 0.4 mm is equal to 400 µm. This is far outside of the claimed range of 10 to 150 µm.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Morimoto et al. does not anticipate the pending claims. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-18 are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By 

Kent E. Baldauf, Jr.
Registration No. 36,082
Attorney for Applicants
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1845
Telephone: 412-471-8815
Facsimile: 412-471-4094